IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.   (Currently amended)   A mail-processing device comprising:

a programmable memory having a table stored therein <u>containing a plurality of product codes</u>;

a program memory <u>containing an operating program to generate print data for a franking imprint to be printed on a mail item</u>;

a working memory having mail-item-related data values stored therein;

a keyboard having a plurality of operating elements <u>allowing manual entry of said mail-item-related data values for said mail item into said working memory</u>;

a microprocessor in communication with said programmable memory, said program memory, said program memory, said working memory, and said keyboard;

said programmable memory, said working memory and said microprocessor, in combination, being programmable <u>by said operating program</u> to set an operating mode for automatic product code entry; and

said microprocessor being programmed ~~for evaluating~~ <u>in said operating mode to evaluate</u> said mail-item-related data values stored in said working memory ~~using~~ <u>and to automatically select an applicable product code from among said plurality of product codes stored in</u> said table stored in said programmable memory<u>, and to generate print data for a franking imprint for said mail item that includes said applicable product code</u>.

2. (Original) A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 wherein said table in said programmable memory comprises a plurality of columns, each of said columns comprising a plurality of rows, and including first and second columns containing datasets representing defaults for valid shipping parameters, and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for row-by-row searching through said first and second columns to identify datasets in said first and second columns corresponding to said values stored in said working memory and, for the valid shipping parameters represented by said datasets, said microprocessor evaluating structures in remaining columns of said table.

3. (Original) A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 2 comprising a display device connected to said microprocessor and wherein said microprocessor is supplied with a weight selected from the group consisting of an entered weight and a measured weight, and wherein said table is a first table stored in a first memory range of said programmable memory, said programmable memory having further memory ranges in which further tables are respectively stored, including a weight table for determining a table index assigned to different weights, and a product code table for determining a product code assigned to said table index, and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for storing a start address of said first table in said programmable memory, for generating a screen image for shipping parameters associated with said values stored in said working memory and for displaying said screen images on said display device, and for accessing said tables in said programmable memory for evaluating data values in a row of said first table in said programmable memory, said data values corresponding to the values stored in said working memory and designating, by a pointer to said product code

table, designated product codes, and said microprocessor being programmed for storing the product codes designated by the pointer with the table index for said weight.

4.　(Original)　A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 2 comprising a display device connected to said microprocessor and wherein said microprocessor is supplied with a weight selected from the group consisting of an entered weight and a measured weight, and wherein said table is a first table stored in a first memory range of said programmable memory, said programmable memory having further memory ranges in which further tables are respectively stored, including a weight class table for determining a table index assigned to a weight class code stored in a further memory, and a product code table for determining a product code assigned to said table index, and wherein said microprocessor is programmed for storing a start address of said first table in said programmable memory, for generating a screen image for shipping parameters associated with said values stored in said working memory and for displaying said screen images on said display device, and for accessing said tables in said programmable memory for evaluating data values in a row of a table in said programmable memory, said data values corresponding to the values stored in said working memory and designating, by a pointer to said product code table, designated product codes, and said microprocessor being programmed for storing the product codes designated by the pointer with the table index for a weight class in which said weight occurs.

5.　(Original)　A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 4 comprising a receiver unit for loading and storing table values and data for entry into

at least one of said table, said weight table, said product code table and said weight class table.

6.   (Original)   A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 4 for use with a postage meter machine, and comprising an interface adapted for connection to the postage meter machine, and wherein said working memory temporarily stores at least one of said weight class code and said product code in respective memory areas, and wherein said microprocessor is programmed to transmit at least one of said weight class code and said product code to the postage meter machine via said interface.

7.   (Original)   A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 comprising an interface in communication with said microprocessor for setting said operating mode.

8.   (Original)   A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 1 wherein one of said operating elements of said keyboard, when actuated, sets said operating mode.

9.   (Original)   An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 comprising a receiving unit connected to said programmable memory for loading said table.

10.   (Original)   A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said receiver unit is a modem selected from the group consisting of analog modems and digital modems.

11.   (Original)   A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said receiving unit is a drive device adapted to receive a data carrier on which said table is stored, selected from the group consisting of CDs and DVDs.

12. (Original) A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said receiving unit is a chip card reader adapted to receive a chip card having a memory in which said table is stored.

13. (Original) A mail-processing device as claimed in claim 9 wherein said receiving unit is a memory stick interface adapted to receive a memory stick having a memory in which said table is stored.

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Currently amended) A ~~data carrier~~ computer-readable medium encoded with a data structure for a mail-processing device having a programmable memory, a working memory and a microprocessor programmed to operate in an operating mode for automatic product code entry, and having a receiver unit in communication with the microprocessor, said data ~~carrier having~~ structure comprising a plurality of memory areas in which are stored, respectively, an application program for said automatic product code entry and for generating screen images for shipping parameters on a display device, at least one first table in one of said memory areas and respective further tables in further memory areas to which access is enabled by said application program, said first table comprising columns of data values for valid shipping parameters and pointers to a weight table, pointers to a product code table and pointers to a weight class table, all of said tables being loadable from ~~data carrier~~ computer readable into said programmable memory via said receiver unit.